

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-07

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 RSC-01 CIAE-00

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DRAFTED BY AF/E:RSBARRETT:JR

APPROVED BY AF - EWMULCAHY

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R 090033Z NOV 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 247375

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, ET, US

SUBJECT: MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR KIFLE ON SECRETARY'S
LETTER TO GENERAL AMAN

REF: (A) ISFAHAN 0025-SECTO 380

(B) STATE 222270

1. SUMMARY: ON NOVEMBER 7 AMBASSADOR KIFLE SOUGHT ASSURANCES ACTING ASST SECRETARY MULCAHY THAT DECISION ON ADDITIONAL FMS CREDITS CONVEYED TO GOE BY SECRETARY'S LETTER (REF A) WAS ONLY OF INTERIM NATURE AND THAT EFFORTS WOULD CONTINUE TO PROVIDE MORE CREDITS IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOE'S OUTSTANDING REQUEST (REF B). KIFLE WAS TOLD THAT THIS DECISION REPRESENTED MAXIMUM EFFORT FEASIBLE UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES, INCLUDING AFRICAN CEILING, BUT THAT THE ADMINISTRATION WAS STILL EXPLORING POSSIBILITY OF INTRODUCING GREATER FLEXIBILITY INTO SECURITY LEGISLATION. KIFLE WAS CAUTIONED THAT OUTCOME OF THESE EFFORTS COULD NOT BE PREDICTED.
END SUMMARY.

2. KIFLE OPENED THE CONVERSATION BY SAYING HOW MUCH
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GEN. AMAN HAD APPRECIATED THE LETTER FROM THE SECRETARY,

PARTICULARLY IN VIEW ALL THE PRESSURES ON LATTER'S TIME
POSED BY OTHER PROBLEMS. MULCAHY ASSURED KIFLE THAT

THE SECRETARY GIVES HIGH PRIORITY TO US RELATIONS WITH
ETHIOPIA FREQUENTLY REQUESTING SITUATION REPORTS
FOR HIS OWN INFORMATION AND IN ORDER TO BRIEF THE
PRESIDENT. HIS ATTENTION TO GENERAL AMAN'S MESSAGE,
EVEN WHILE ABSENT FROM COUNTRY EVIDENCED THIS INTEREST.

3. KIFLE SAID THAT HE HAD BEEN TOLD BY HIS GOVERNMENT
TO AWAIT FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS REGARDING ACTION HE SHOULD
TAKE ON SECRETARY'S LETTER BUT HE HAD NEVERTHELESS
THOUGHT IT BEST TO SEEK THIS APPOINTMENT IN ORDER
OBTAIN CERTAIN CLARIFICATIONS SINCE, NOW THAT A SPECIFIC
AMOUNT HAD BEEN SET, THE GOE WOULD HAVE TO REVISE ITS
PRIORITIES TO FIT INTO IT. HE ASSUMED US AUTHORITIES
WOULD ALSO STUDY REVISION OF DELIVERY PRIORITIES.

4. KIFLE THEN CAME TO HIS MAIN POINT OF INTEREST AND
OPINED THAT IT WOULD BE VERY "USEFUL" IF HE COULD
ASSURE HIS GOVERNMENT THAT 8.3 MILLION DOLLARS FY 75 FMS
CREDITS WAS JUST AN "INTERIM RESPONSE". THE LETTER
WAS UNCLEAR ON THIS POINT AND ON WHETHER ADMINISTRATION
WAS CONTINUING ITS EFFORTS TO RESPOND TO THE ETHIOPIAN
REQUEST. HE SAID HE REALIZED IT WAS SOMETIMES INADVISABLE
TO BE TOO SPECIFIC IN DOCUMENTS SUCH AS THE SECRETARY'S
LETTER TO AMAN. HE WOULD NEVERTHELESS LIKE TO BE IN A
POSITION TO REASSURE GOE ON BOTH SCORES.

5. KIFLE WAS TOLD BY MULCAHY AND BLAKE THAT SECRETARY
HAD MADE MAXIMUM EFFORT TO BE RESPONSIVE TO ETHIOPIAN
REQUEST WITHIN LIMITS IMPOSED BY CONGRESSIONAL
AUTHORIZATION AND OTHER USG OBLIGATIONS. WE CONTINUE
TO BE AWARE OF AND SYMPATHETIC TO ETHIOPIAN NEEDS AND
HOPE IN THE CURRENT AND FUTURE FISCAL YEARS TO BE
RESPONSIVE TO THOSE NEEDS. WE ALSO HOPE TO OBTAIN
LEGISLATION GIVING THE PRESIDENT AUTHORITY TO MAKE
EXCEPTIONS TO THE AFRICAN CEILING. HOWEVER, WE MUST
BE REALISTIC ABOUT THE PRESENT RESTRAINTS AND THE
PROSPECTS FOR ANY CHANGE IN LEGISLATION. THE SECRETARY'S
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RESPONSE IS AN INTERIM ONE BUT THIS INTERIM WILL LAST
AS LONG AS THE LEGISLATION IS NOT CHANGED OR AT
LEAST UNTIL FY 76. INITIAL CONGRESSIONAL REACTION
NOT PROMISING, OUTCOME OF DEPARTMENT'S EFFORTS THEREFORE
UNCERTAIN AND IT WILL BE SEVERAL WEEKS AT LEAST BEFORE
WE CAN FURTHER DISCERN THE FATE OF OUR LEGISLATIVE
EFFORTS. HOWEVER, THE POSITION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF
STATE IS CLEAR.

6. KIFLE CAME BACK TO THE SAME POINT SEVERAL TIMES, ASKING IF HE COULD TELL GOE THAT REPLY IS INTERIM, AND THAT WE WOULD GIVE FURTHER CONSIDERATION TO THE ETHIOPIAN REQUEST. HE WAS TOLD YES ON BOTH COUNTS, BUT THAT THE GOE MUST CONTINUE TO BEAR THE SURROUNDING CIRCUMSTANCES IN MIND.

7. KIFLE SAID THAT HE THOUGHT HIS GOVERNMENT SHOULD USE THESE CREDITS RIGHT AWAY AND THAT IT PROBABLY WOULD. HE WAS TOLD THAT THIS WOULD IMPROVE ETHIOPIAN CHANCES FOR ADDITIONAL CREDITS ON NEXT SLICE. WE ALSO INFORMED KIFLE OF DECISION TO POSTPONE REDUCTION OF MAAG AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT GEN. AMAN WAS FULLY AWARE OF THE EFFORTS THAT HAD BEEN MADE IN WASHINGTON, BY KIFLE AND STATE, TO BE RESPONSIVE TO ETHIOPIAN NEEDS. KIFLE APEARED IMPRESSED. MAW

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